



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0023

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

SUSAN A. GENDRON
COMMISSIONER

May 14, 2008

Dean Baker, Superintendent
MSAD 49
8 School Street
Fairfield, ME

Dear Superintendent Baker:

Thank you for the revised Alternative Plan that you submitted on behalf of MSAD 49 on May 8, 2008 for Department review for compliance with the school reorganization law, P.L. 2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX.

I recognize how much time, effort and thoughtful work is required to complete an alternative plan and appreciate the efforts made, to date, by all those involved.

Members of my staff and I have reviewed the submission and offer the comments and notes listed below to assist you in completing the plan. If you make any substantive change(s) to any part of the plan beyond those listed below, please be sure to note those on the Updated Alternative Plan Cover Sheet Checklist, along with notation of those items that have changed per the notes contained in this response.

General Documentation (Submittal Sheet)

- All information submitted as required.

Checklist/Plan Text Items

Items Checked "Complete"

With respect to the items you checked as "complete", please note the following:

** Required Items*

The 2007-08 budget data provided in your revised plan is not consistent with the data reported in the MEDMS financial system. Please verify these amounts and review the enclosed Financial Summary generated by Department staff using the

amounts provided. If you have questions concerning this requirement, please email Karla Miller or Suzan Beaudoin at karla.miller@maine.gov or suzan.beaudoin@maine.gov for assistance.

Also enclosed are two sample alternative plans that contain the required documentation. I suggest that you review the language in these plans prior to submitting your revisions.

We will review all items on the checklist again, upon your completion of the plan.

SUBMISSION OF REVISIONS:

Please provide the additional materials to complete your plan by June 13, 2008. Please include:

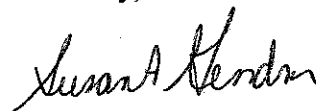
- Any additional data required
- An updated Submittal Page
- An updated Cover Sheet Checklist
- A copy of this Response from the Commissioner.

I will respond no more than 14 days after the revisions/additional materials are refiled with the Department. As you are the contact person identified on the Submittal Sheet, this response is addressed to you but with the understanding that you will share it with your school administrative unit board members.

Finally, what I am reviewing for approval is a plan (or a submission, if the plan is incomplete) which is by its very nature prospective, with steps yet to be taken or finalized; and any review comments or approval given are in relation to the elements required under P.L. 2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX but not the legality of all the activities proposed. Thus, I strongly recommend that you have your own legal advisor(s) review the details of any particular transaction proposed in your plan (particularly with respect to the disposition of property, to debt, and to employee contracts/relations) as you proceed, to ensure the legality of the steps you'll be taking to implement the plan. If that review leads to any substantive changes in any parts of your plan, please be sure to submit an amended plan to the Department for our review and our file.

Again, my sincere thanks for your efforts.

Sincerely,



Susan A. Gendron
Commissioner of Education

cc: Charlie Richardson

MSAD 49 Financial Summary

<u>Funding Comparison</u>	<u>Budgeted 2007-08</u>	<u>Budgeted 2008-09</u>	<u>Increase/ (Decrease)</u>	<u>Percent Increase/Decrease</u>
Special Education	3,127,809.00	3,291,171.00	163,362.00	4.96%
Operations & Maintenance	2,964,843.00	3,341,588.00	376,745.00	11.27%
District Admin/Support	751,343.00	674,073.00	(77,270.00)	-11.46%
Transportation	1,181,285.00	1,374,809.00	193,524.00	14.08%

Comparison of Budget to EPS for 2007-08

	<u>Budgeted 2007-08</u>	<u>EPS Amount</u>	<u>Over/ (Under) EPS</u>	<u>Percentage Over/(Under) EPS</u>
Special Education*	2,977,809.00	2,377,938.00	599,871.00	25.23%
Operations & Maintenance	2,964,843.00	2,708,402.00	256,441.00	9.47%
District Admin/Support	751,343.00	952,933.00	(201,590.00)	-21.15%
Transportation	1,181,285.00	930,069.00	251,216.00	27.01%

Comparison of Budget to EPS for 2008-09

	<u>Budgeted 2008-09</u>	<u>EPS Amount</u>	<u>Over/ (Under) EPS</u>	<u>Percentage Over/(Under) EPS</u>
Special Education*	3,141,171.00	2,216,912.25	924,258.75	41.69%
Operations & Maintenance	3,341,588.00	2,904,717.59	436,870.41	15.04%
District Admin/Support	674,073.00	595,185.30	78,887.70	13.25%
Transportation	1,374,809.00	917,291.67	457,517.33	49.88%

*Special Education is budget less \$150,000 for State Agency Clients and Medicaid Reimbursement